

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

4 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Lew Allen, Jr., USAF
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Admiral Thomas B. Hayward, USN
Chief of Naval Operations

SUBJECT: CIA Study on Soviet Military Aircraft
Maintenance ☐

1. Several months ago our Office of Strategic Research completed what I believe is an interesting study on Soviet military aircraft maintenance (attached). Your staffs may already have brought this to your attention, but I just wanted to ensure that that was the case. ☐

2. The implications of this study as I see them are:

a. The Soviet system for maintaining their aircraft is extremely expensive--hence, they get less bang for their buck, at least in this department.

b. Through a combination of frequent maintenance and low operating rates, the Soviet air force regularly has a high rate of equipment readiness. Concomitantly, because of their low operating rates their personnel readiness must be low and, hence, one would assume they have a low rate of total system operational readiness--that is, unless we overtrain our people.

c. The Soviet air force is not prepared for prolonged combat. ☐


STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment:

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